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earth and sun, was nearly right, so nearly that an increase of one-tenth of a day in the perihelion passage gave an impossible value for the sine of this angle. The orbit and all the circumstances were particularly favourable for Newton's method; which was, therefore, applied with considerable modifications.

"Without a complete discussion of all the observations the result cannot be regarded as final. It is, therefore, needless to dwell upon the subject, at present, to any greater length. Part of what is here inserted may be too commonplace to bring before the Academy. You will oblige me by pruning as you judge proper.

"The rate of motion at the perihelion was fifty-one miles per second.

"With sincere thanks for your kind encouragement,

"I am very truly yours,

"ANDREW GRAHAM.

"*Sir W. R. Hamilton,*
&c., &c."

The Rev. Charles Graves made the following communication on the comparison of adjectives in the ancient Irish language:—

"The most eminent Irish grammarians have constantly denied the existence of a superlative form, as distinguished from the comparative. I was, therefore, surprised to find some undoubted instances of the use of a distinct superlative form occurring in an ancient Irish tract, in the study of which I was engaged more than two years ago; and since then I have continued to collect such other examples of this kind as I met with, intending to bring the subject under the notice of the Academy.

"On looking, however, to the 'Celtic Grammar,' lately published by Professor Zeuss, I found that I had been anticipated by that learned and accurate scholar in the statement of this fact. He shows that in the old Welsh language there was a superlative ending in *am*, of which he adduces *hinham*, sup. of *hen*, old, as an instance. This final *m* passed into *f* in the later Welsh, which furnishes several examples of superlatives in *af.* In the old Armoric, too, we meet with superlatives in *af* or *aff*, though in the language as spoken at present the termination is reduced to *a*.

"To the old Irish superlatives enumerated by Zeuss ('Gram. Celt.' p. 287), the following may be added:—

amꞃam, ...	sup. of	amꞃa,	admirable.
anꝺum, ...	„	anꝺaċ?	bad.
annꞅam, ...	„	annꞅa,	difficult.
aꞃꝺam, ...	„	aꞃꝺ,	high.
cainem, ...	„	cain,	delightful.
cꞃinem, ...	„	cꞃion,	old.
ᵹlaiꞅim, ...	„	ᵹlaꞅ,	gray.
ᵹꞃuiꝺem, ...	„	ᵹꞃuiꝺ,	bitter.
millꞅem, ...	„	miliꞅ,	sweet.
mooꞃom, ...	„	moꞃ,	great.
ꞅinem, ...	„	ꞅen,	old.
ꞅꞃuiṫem, ...	„	ꞅꞃuiṫ,	distinguished.
ꞇinꝺem, ...	„	ꞇeann,	strong.
ꞇꞃeiꞅim, ...	„	ꞇꞃeiꞅ,	strong.
uaiꞅlem and uaiꞅlium, . . .	„	uaꞅal,	noble.

"Amongst these will be observed two in *im*, and two in *um*, terminations of which Professor Zeuss seems to have met with no examples."

The Rev. Samuel Haughton read an account of some experiments made to determine the velocities of the rifle bullets commonly used.

The Chairman remarked, that such papers as that read by Mr. Haughton, combining both the highest science and the most exact practical knowledge, were of the greatest national importance.